

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2219, OFFERED BY CONGRESSMAN POSEY (FL-15)

**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and commend my friend Congressman POSEY for his work on this jobs initiative.

Florida is home to Kennedy Space Center, the heart of NASA's space shuttle program. With tens of thousands of highly-skilled men and women currently working on the Space Coast in support of NASA's human space flight program, their jobs are threatened by the Administration's decision to end the shuttle program and cancel Constellation without a viable plan for the future of space exploration. These jobs will be lost, possibly forever, and in the midst of a housing and economic recession not seen in Florida in decades. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the Space Coast cannot afford to lose these jobs.

That is why I am proud to stand with Mr. POSEY in support of this much needed amendment. Make no mistake, this is a jobs amendment—one that will help support families and small businesses throughout Central Florida. Specifically this amendment commits the Department of Defense to use the National Shuttle Logistics Depot to the greatest extent practicable and to assist in the preservation of our highly skilled aerospace and engineering workforce. By utilizing already existing infrastructure and a trained workforce, the government can leverage this unique skill set to advance our nation's space and defense missions at minimal cost to the American taxpayer.

The aerospace workers across the country have already been hit by an economy struggling under the tax and spend policies of the President and now, without a solid plan from NASA on what is next for the space program, the industry base will simply disappear. This is an easy way for the federal government to utilize the resources we already have to help create aerospace jobs throughout the country, without throwing away decades of technology

and laying off tens of thousands of highly skilled workers.

Mr. Speaker, when governments like China are gearing up for the next big explosion in space industry and technologies, preserving this workforce is not just about ensuring people have jobs—it is about the national security interests of our nation.

If we lose this national asset, I fear we will forever be remembered as the country that gave up the last frontier. One that looked to the stars and told the world we weren't interested.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this jobs amendment to help save a workforce we desperately need.

INTRODUCING AMENDMENT TO  
THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS  
BILL

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill that directs the Secretary of Defense to utilize to the fullest extent practicable the incredible resource that exists at the NASA Shuttle Logistics Depot, NSLD, in Central Florida.

The Department of Defense would be well served to make greater use of the facility's unique manufacturing capabilities and highly-skilled workforce for Department of Defense supply chain and repair needs. The loss of this facility and its workforce would not only be a blow to our nation's space program but represent a missed opportunity to serve U.S. national security interests.

The unique combination of technologically-advanced equipment used in the 300,000 sq. ft. NSLD facility for aerospace manufacturing, repair, and overhaul combined with the critical workforce is extremely capable of providing warfighter support for our military. Although the NSLD's operator, the United Space Alliance, USA, has procured a recent DLA contract, the work is not enough to maintain the NSLD.

This irreplaceable workforce will go elsewhere once the Shuttle Program comes to an end. The skills the NSLD facility and personnel offer are a direct match to those the DoD needs to reduce the risk of vanishing vendors and diminishing manufacturing sources in its supply chain. USA's performance-based logistics operations have maintained on-time delivery greater than 98 percent, and a customer acceptance rate of 99.99 percent.

USA has managed NASA assets of 250,000 unique part numbers valued at \$1.5 billion per year. During the Shuttle Program, over 80 OEM hardware repair or manufacturing tasks—260 Orbiter Line Replaceable Units comprised of over 7,000 line items—were transitioned to and certified by USA at the NSLD. By Shuttle Program end, more than 80 percent of all completed Orbiter Line Replaceable Unit repairs were done at NSLD by USA resources.

This Amendment is directly tied to jobs. The final flight of the Space Shuttle Orbiter, scheduled for Friday, sets the stage for a mass exodus of highly skilled labor and specialized resources from Florida's Space Coast. This void will further strain our economy and dilute the workforce and capabilities needed to sustain the technologies required to achieve the diversification of Florida's economy.

Aside from being a great asset to the Department of Defense, greater utilization of this important asset will keep the facility functioning as we look to NASA's next mission. This workforce would have been sustained as NASA transitioned to the Constellation Program, that is before it was vitiated. The retirement of the Shuttle Program presents an excellent opportunity for the Department of Defense, the Defense Logistics Agency specifically, to take advantage of the highly skilled workforce as they process and refurbish equipment returning from theater in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is an opportunity which can preserve a national asset, preserve jobs, and assist the Department of Defense in cycling through the equipment returning from combat.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am submitting this amendment to encourage DoD to make better use of this rich resource so that it does not winnow away.